

EXHIBIT "A"

11.27.06

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Art Unit NA
Examiner Unknown

In Re: P. Venkat Rangan et al.
Case: P3901C2
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: 07/11/03
Subject: Method and Apparatus for Providing and Maintaining
a User-Interactive Portal System Accessible via
Internet or other Switched-Packet-Network

To: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir;

Preliminary Amendment

In the specification:

Please add the section entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Documents" beginning at line 8 as follows:

The present application is a continuation application of copending application 10/180,146, filed 06/25/2002, which is a continuation of US application 09/208,740, filed 12/08/1998, which issued as US Patent 6,412,073 on 06/25/2002, and which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-39 and enter claims 40-78 as follows:

40. An Internet portal, comprising:

an Internet-connected server; and

a portal software executing on the server;

wherein the portal, by executing the software, in response to log-on by a user at client-side equipment, presents a secure and personalized page for the user, the personalized page having a list of Internet destinations pre-selected by the user, wherein, upon invocation of a destination by the user, the portal invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information required for user access at the destination.

41. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein required log-on information includes a password accessible to the server, and the password is provided to the destination for log-on.

42. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein the user connects to the Portal through an Internet Service Provider (ISP), and after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to and displayed for the user.

43. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein the Portal is hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the user subscribes.

44. The Internet Portal of claim 40 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

45. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein, after a user invokes a destination, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

46. The Internet Portal of claim 45 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

47. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein the Portal software, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

48. The Internet Portal of claim 40 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

49. The Internet Portal of claim 48 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

50. An Internet Portal, comprising:

- an Internet-connected server; and

- a portal software executing on the server;

- wherein the portal interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a user's Internet-connected appliance, such that, when the user invokes a destination requiring a secure log-on at the destination, the portal software cooperates with the browser plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

51. The Internet Portal of claim 50 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is passed on to the

destination for log-on.

52. The Internet Portal of claim 50 wherein, after a user invokes a destination, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software cooperates with the user's browser plug-in to access and display one or more informative displays to the user.

53. The Internet Portal of claim 52 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

54. The Internet Portal of claim 50 wherein the Portal software, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

55. The Internet Portal of claim 50 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

56. The Internet Portal of claim 55 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

57. An Internet Portal software application, comprising:

- a log-on portion providing an interactive display for users to enter log-on information from an Internet-connected appliance for access to the Portal application; and

- a plurality of displayable stored personal pages associated each with one or more specific users;

- wherein individual personalized pages, rendered in an interactive display, list plural Internet destinations, the destinations pre-selected by the associated users, and upon invocation of a destination by the associated

user, the portal software invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information for user access at the destination.

58. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 wherein required log-on information includes a password passed on to the destination for log-on.

59. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 wherein, after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to and displayed for the user.

60. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users subscribe.

61. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations in user's pages for defined search criteria.

62. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 wherein, after a user invokes a destination, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

63. The Internet Portal application of claim 62 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

64. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 wherein, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

65. The Internet Portal application of claim 57 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

66. The Internet Portal application of claim 65 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

67. An Internet Portal software application executing on an Internet-connected server, comprising:

- a log-on portion providing an interactive display for users to enter log-on information for access to the Portal application; and

- a plurality of displayable stored personal pages associated each with one or more specific users;

- wherein the portal application interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a subscriber's Internet-connected appliance, such that, when the user invokes a destination the portal software cooperates with the browser plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

68. The Internet Portal application of claim 67 wherein required log-on information includes a password passed on to the destination for log-on.

69. The Internet Portal application of claim 67 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users subscribe.

70. The Internet Portal application of claim 67 wherein, after a user invokes a destination, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software, in cooperation with the browser plug-in, accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

71. The Internet Portal application of claim 70 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

72. The Internet Portal application of claim 67 wherein the Portal application, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

73. The Internet Portal application of claim 67 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

74. The Internet Portal of claim 73 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

75. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

- (a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server, which returns a personalized page for the user logging on, the personalized page having listed plural Internet destinations, the destinations pre-selected by the user;

- (b) selecting a destination in the personalized page, thereby invoking a URL for the destination, and, upon connection to the destination, automatically providing user log-on information for the user; and

- (c) interacting with the page automatically provided.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein the Portal server is hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

77. The method of claim 75 further comprising a step for invoking a search

function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

78. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

- (a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server as a subscriber, the portal server storing data associated with Internet destinations pre-selected by the subscriber;

- (a) using a browser executing on the Internet-capable appliance, invoking an Internet destination;

- (b) upon being presented with a log-in interface at the destination, furnishing necessary log-in data by the Portal server, and accomplishing secure log-in for the subscriber substantially transparently to the subscriber.

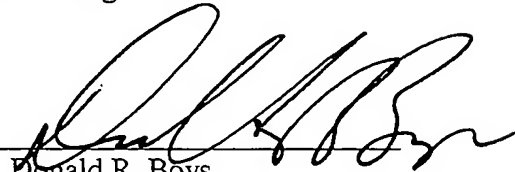
Remarks

The present preliminary amendment is filed as a part of a patent application claiming priority to a parent case, to provide new claims for examination.

If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,
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by



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Certificate of express mailing No. EV3150862000US
Attorney Docket No: P3901C2 Serial No. NA Date: 07/11/2003

1. Utility patent application transmittal.
2. 26 sheets of specification.
3. 3 sheets of drawings.
4. Preliminary Amendment.
5. Fee transmittal.
6. Duplicate fee transmittal.
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